

# DASP Digest



US Forest Service International Programs  
Disaster Assistance Support Program

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## Highlights

DART Tools 2.1 Released.

Roll out of the FOG.

After Actions for South  
Asia and Darfur, Sudan.

*DASP Digest is a quarterly report produced by the Disaster Assistance Support Program (DASP), a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service International Programs and USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. For more information please visit our website at [www.fs.fed.us/global/](http://www.fs.fed.us/global/).*



## DART Tools 2.1 Released

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The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Tools CD version 2.1 is now in circulation! Nearly 250 USAID/OFDA staff and partners have now received a copy of this helpful tool.

The DART Tools CD contains over 600 mb of information intended to supplement the USAID/OFDA Field Operations Guide (FOG) and the Washington Response Management Team Policy (RMT Manual). It may be used as a resource and a

reference for both the DART and the RMT.

The CD contains forms, templates, manuals, instructions and sample documents for each of the various disaster response functions including: Management, Operations, Planning, Logistics, Administration, Communications and Security. The CD also contains links to useful websites and other common reference materials. From manuals like the FOG,

Sphere, and Abacus to documents and templates for grant awards, personnel actions and technical resources, the 560 documents contained on the CD include the majority of reference material needed for work in the field or in Washington, DC.

To add updates or changes, send an email to [FOG\\_updates@ofda.net](mailto:FOG_updates@ofda.net).

Contact a DASP team member to get your copy of DART Tools version 2.1 today!

## Roll Out Efforts Help to Lift the FOG



Since the release of the FOG version 4.0 this spring, the DASP has undertaken a major effort to get a new copy of the guide into the hands of the people who need it most.

With assistance from our colleagues at the National Interagency Fire Center warehouse in Boise, ID and the Quincy Street warehouse in Arlington, VA the DASP has distributed over 2,500 FOGs in the past three months. Recipients include USAID/OFDA staff (field and

Washington, DC), USAID/DCHA partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), International Organizations, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Los Angeles County Fire and Rescue, and the Department of Defense. The DASP is continuing to expand distribution as additional needs and partners are identified.

Also during this quarter, the DASP launched a series of "FOG Lifter" sessions, a brownbag venue that provided staff with an opportunity to learn about the new FOG.

Nearly 20 USAID/OFDA staff members attended one of the three sessions, which reviewed the contents of the FOG, highlighted additions and changes, provided a helpful one-page overview, and supplied tools for staff members to customize their own FOGs.

As always, if you notice the need for changes and updates in the FOG, please send an e-mail to [FOG\\_updates@ofda.net](mailto:FOG_updates@ofda.net).



*"It is looking like a very good rain year for Ethiopia, so crops are expected to be good."*

~ Ron Libby

## DART Board: Complex Emergency in Ethiopia

With promising rainfall in recent months, pastoralist areas of Ethiopia are anticipating good crop harvests this season, which may stem some of the impacts of the ongoing humanitarian emergency in that region. However, an unknown number of people have been killed and thousands have been displaced by inter-clan conflicts in Oromiya Region since mid-June.

Through the Short Term Assistance Retirees (STARs) program, DASP has accessed veteran field officer Ron Libby to support humanitarian operations in Ethiopia.

Since May 21, Libby has been working with USAID/OFDA's East and Central Africa Regional Office and USAID/Ethiopia to monitor existing grant programs focused on

water/sanitation, health, nutrition and livelihoods. Libby also hosted the TDY of OFDA Field Support Team (FST) member Nazik Salih, providing mentoring and on-the-ground training in disaster assessment techniques and program monitoring.

Libby expects to remain in Ethiopia through early August, when he will return to Washington, DC for briefings.

## DOCs Benefit from OFDA Basics

USAID's Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) recently hosted four-day workshops in Dubai and Bucharest for Development Outreach and Communications Officers (DOCs) in the Asia Near East and Europe & Eurasia regions. The purpose of the workshops was to increase DOC skill sets and share best practices. As part of this initiative, OFDA conducted a one-day session for DOCs on what to expect in the event of a disaster response at post.

The OFDA component familiarized DOCs with OFDA's response criteria and options as well as highlighted the difference between DART Communications Officers, Information Officers, and Press Officers.

The OFDA module included videotaped interviews with

subject matter experts Sulayman Brown, Nancy McGuire, and Rebecca Gustafson. In Dubai, the session culminated with DOCs drafting Crisis Communications Strategies for their posts. Such strategies will ultimately benefit OFDA by helping us spread the word about USAID's good work and that of our partners in humanitarian emergencies.

Training materials were designed by DASP in coordination with the Training Unit and Regional Teams. The Dubai session was facilitated by Bob Walker and Nancy McGuire and the Bucharest session was led by Alisia Kachmar and Rob Andrew. In total, 53 people from 32 USAID Missions were trained.

One participant was able to put his new knowledge to work almost immediately

following to the magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck the Indonesian island of Java on May 27, 2006. Danumurthi (Monty) Mahendra, DOC from USAID/Jakarta, reported, "...your presentation in Dubai was an eye opener for me. It just struck me that what you told us there was instantly recognizable and is in effect with our quake relief efforts down in Yogyakarta."



*"Your presentation was a real eye opener for me."*

~ Monty Mahendra

## DART/RMT Training Resources Enhanced

In the May iteration of the DART/RMT training the DASP incorporated suggestions from past students and instructors. These changes contributed to improved flow and linkages between sessions, and helped to bridge gaps between participants with varying levels of experience.

A new facilitators' handbook was introduced in response to instructor feedback. The new handbook makes a facilitator's life easier by providing all of their materials in a clear and compact product. It also serves as a useful tool to make session notes and edits while the course is in progress.

The DASP plans to make additional updates to the training in preparation for the July session. Some things to look forward to include a revised cover for the participants' manual and a new workbook for all of the course handouts and exercises.



*"It was great to actually simulate the (disaster) event and get a feel of what it could be like."*

~ DART/RMT Participant

## Logistics Workshop is Venue for Outreach

The annual National Logistics Workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, provides an opportunity for domestic Incident Command System practitioners to learn about developments in the Logistics arena and get new tools for

improving incident response. This year the DASP was invited to speak about our program, which proved to be a great opportunity for networking with highly skilled disaster responders. Laura Chapman provided the 350-plus attendees

an overview of OFDA, the DASP program, and the types of DASP detailer assignments. Many attendees expressed an interest in the program, and we hope to add some of them to the pool of potential DASP detailers in the future.

## Keeping up with MDROs: Focus on Kenya

Maintaining an updated roster of Mission Disaster Relief Officers (MDROs) is a constant challenge, especially during the summer months when Foreign Service Officers frequently rotate. During the quarter, cables were sent to posts in hurricane prone countries, North and West Africa, and the Europe, Middle East and Central Asia region soliciting updated contact information for MDROs and their alternates.

Would you like to contact an MDRO before your next TDY?

Check out the MDRO database in the Mission Disaster Preparedness (MDP) e-room at <https://trauma.ofda.net/eRoom/EST/MDP>.



### Training

DASP conducted a condensed training for the newly appointed alternate MDRO in Benin, Kitty Andang. Roles and responsibilities were reviewed along with the new Mission Disaster Relief Plan (MDRP) guidelines.

### Focus on Kenya

Following two disaster declarations in FY 06, one for drought and another for a building collapse, USAID/Nairobi

sought virtual technical assistance from the DASP to update Kenya's MDRP. The Mission's efforts were spearheaded by Makeda Tsegaye, Emergency Coordinator and North Eastern Pastoral Development Program Manager.

DASP incorporated feedback from OFDA's East and Central Africa Team, the Program Support Division, and the Technical Assistance Group into the MDRP.

The Mission's plan, although still in draft format, identifies hazards and vulnerabilities in Kenya, discusses the formation of a Mission Disaster Relief Committee to augment support from the MDRO, and provides a framework for response.



*USAID/Nairobi's Makeda Tsegaye, leading Kenya's MDRP update*



*"Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning."*

~ Thomas Edison

## RMT Time: Progress on Procedures

The timeline for the rollout of the revised OFDA Response Management Team (RMT) Policy has been adjusted due to the departure of DASP staff member Sherry Hazelhurst. The DASP is currently preparing for a September pilot and December rollout of the new system.

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made on various co  
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## FST Projects Move Ahead with DASP Help

Did you know that USAID has a role in domestic disaster response? Under the National Response Plan, USAID helps FEMA and the Department of State coordinate international assistance. In this role, OFDA has spearheaded the development of the *International Assistance System Concept of Operations*, a document that provides the framework for

interagency collaboration in receiving and requesting foreign assistance under the National Response Plan (NRP). DASP has worked closely with FST to develop the *Concept of Operations*, which should be finalized soon.

As the U.S. government's official representative to INSARAG, the International Search and Rescue Advisory

Group, OFDA also plays a role in the NRP's Urban Search and Rescue Emergency Support Function. DASP is currently helping the FST to develop procedures for identifying international search and rescue teams and bringing them to the U.S. to assist when domestic disaster responders are overwhelmed. training course for potential DART Safety and Security Officers (SSOs), which took place from May 15 – 19 in Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. Three DASP personnel participated in the course.

Gary Barrett supported the training cadre as the logistics coordinator and technical

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## DASP Supports SSO Training Efforts



## Attention to Detailers: Recent Assignments

Laura Chapman (1/30 – 12/31) is updating the National Response Plan and operating procedures.

Kary Schlick (2/28 – 4/6) covered the DASP Detailer Program.

Mark Rooney (3/28 – 4/7) served as OFDA Ops Center Manager and assisted with the DART Tools CD.

Chris Frederick (4/17 – 6/3) detailed to the Operations

Team as a logistics officer.

Laura Parker (5/8 – 7/7) served as an intern for the East and Central Africa Team.

Ron Libby: (5/8 – 5/13) assisted instruction of the DART/RMT training.

(5/14 – 5/19) attended the Safety and Security Officer course in Camp Lejeune, NC.

(5/21 – 8/4) deployed to Ethiopia as a field officer.

Henry Shovic (5/27 – 6/3) detailed to the Geographic Information Unit.

Bill Johnson (6/5 – 7/14) detailed to East and Central Africa team as a Disaster Operations Specialist.

Paolo Paqueo (60 hours) is working with the FST on the OFDA staff database and with DASP on DART Tools.



## After Action Format Adapts to Needs

During the quarter, DASP completed lessons learned workshops for two significant disaster responses from FY 2005: the South Asia earthquake, and the Sudan/Darfur complex emergency.

About 40 people attended an after action workshop on April 26, 2006 to discuss the South Asia earthquake response. Participants included members of the DART, RMT, partner U.S. Government (USG) agencies and grant-funded NGOs. Anonymous, on-line surveys and personal interviews were used to query those people involved in the response and to help the DASP and OFDA's Disaster Response & Mitigation (DRM) form a workshop agenda.

Three primary successes were highlighted for replication, and three areas for improvement were suggested in an after action report, currently in draft.

Themes for improvement include staffing, safety/security, and communications/ coordination.

The Sudan lessons learned process differed from past after actions. The DASP completed an anonymous survey of OFDA staff who participated in the Sudan complex emergency disaster response between May 2004 and December 2005. Thirty five people responded, and DASP collated results to discern common themes. The themes were familiar, including staffing, administration and management.

Using the themes that emerged from the survey, and in light of a number of challenges posed by the lengthy and complicated response, the DASP and DRM's Regional Team for Sudan agreed to a new approach.

The Regional Team identified specific participants to constitute working groups on four issues:

staffing, administration, management and programming. Three working groups convened for half-day sessions on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> to address issues related to management, staffing and programming. A fourth working group will be asked to address administrative issues later this summer.

The working groups were tasked to develop specific action plans to address the highest priority issues. Summary reports are currently in draft and will guide OFDA on methods to share results with the rest of the staff and provide ample opportunity for comment and feedback.

Reports summarizing these workshops, and a review of recent after action findings, will be available from the DASP during the fourth quarter.



*Gary Barrett reports on the results of a working group at the South Asia After Action workshop.*

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## Bidding Farewell to Sherry Hazelhurst

DASP colleague and friend Sherry Hazelhurst recently accepted a new position in the U.S. Forest Service as the National Watershed Coordinator in Washington, DC. DASP has relied heavily on Sherry during the past year as she has orchestrated a number of after action reviews and the revamp

of the Response Management Team policy for OFDA. We certainly hate to see her go, but we are happy for her as she embarks on this new adventure in her field of hydrology, where she will have daily opportunities to use her well-honed technical skills. Sherry's last day was Friday, June 2.



## Making CPR and First Aid Easier

In 2006, the American Red Cross reviewed and updated the procedures and related training for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid. Changes included elimination of rescue breathing, streamlining the

steps for CPR, and development of a new follow-along DVD for training.

Gary Barrett and Bob Walker gave the first updated training for OFDA staff on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Both instructors and participants felt that the changes made learning more fun and interesting, and simplified procedures make performing CPR and First Aid easier for the practitioner.

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